

Riffa go top with win
 Mohammed Anz, Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos on target against Al Hala in week 16 match | P12

WORLD 6 Trump's landmark criminal trial opens in New York

THE DAILY tribune



Sofia Vergara declares her love for new boyfriend

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Oil sinks on de-escalation hopes following Iran strike

Bahrain hit by heavy rainfalls

TDT | Manama

Several areas in Bahrain experienced flooding following moderate to heavy rains yesterday evening.

The General Administration of Civil Defense issued a cautionary advisory, urging citizens and residents to exercise vigilance due to unstable weather conditions persisting until this evening.

The Coast Guard Command also advised against maritime activities for safety reasons.

Education Ministry suspends classes



Road submerged in water after heavy rainfall
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education last night declared the suspension of all academic activities in public and private schools, higher education institutions, kindergartens, and nurseries today.

This precautionary action aims to safeguard student security amidst escalating rainfall.

Classes will resume tomorrow.

Sympathy for Oman over floods victims

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its sympathy with the Sultanate of Oman over the floods that swept the state of Al Mudhaibi, which resulted in the loss of many lives, persons and the injury of others.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministry extended its condolences to Oman, its leadership, government, people, and the families of the victims.

Royal reception



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday met the 25th intake of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CIPSP), alongside their parents and members of the CIPSP Board of Directors, at Riffa Palace. HRH Prince Salman congratulated the students on their acceptance to the programme and lauded their performance during the application process. A number of senior officials also attended the meeting. (Detailed report on Page 2)

Peace must prevail

Cabinet emphasises restraint and diplomatic solutions for regional conflicts



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet highlighted the importance of exercising restraint, de-escalating tensions, resolving disputes diplomatically, upholding the rule of law, and respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter amid regional conflicts.

In yesterday's weekly session chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at Gudaibiya Palace, the Cabinet noted it was monitoring the concerning developments in the Middle East and their repercussions on regional peace and stability.

It also called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure international peace by resolving issues and



The Cabinet urged the United Nations and the UN Security Council to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure international peace by resolving issues and conflicts in the region.

Following His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Royal Decree pardoning numerous inmates convicted of rioting and criminal cases, in honour of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's



accession to the throne and coinciding with Eid Al-Fitr, HRH Prince Salman instructed the Ministers of Interior and Labour to ensure that all pardoned individuals are registered as beneficiaries of unemployment

benefits for job seekers.

The Cabinet extended heartfelt condolences to the leadership, the government, and the people of the Sultanate of Oman for the floods that swept the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi region

and expressed its sympathy to the victims' families.

The Cabinet discussed several memorandums during the meeting.

It approved a memorandum submitted by the Minister of Interior regarding future measures required to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. In this regard, the Cabinet assigned the relevant authorities to implement strategic initiatives within a specific time frame.

The Cabinet approved a memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on the establishment of the Bahrain Electricity and Water Holding Company, and a memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the amendment of Article 1 of the decision to restructure the National Commission for Childhood.

Unyielding assault in Gaza

World on edge amid push to defuse Iran-Israel tensions

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel bombed war-battered Gaza, Hamas said yesterday, as world leaders awaited Israel's reaction but urged de-escalation after Iran's unprecedented attack that heightened fears of wider conflict.

World powers have called for

restraint after Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel late Saturday, though the Israeli military has said nearly all were intercepted.

Tehran's first direct assault on Israel, in retaliation for a deadly April 1 strike on its Damascus embassy consular annex, fol-

lowed months of violence across the region involving Iranian proxies and allies who say they act in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

No decision has been made on how, when - or if - Israel could respond to the Iran attack, local media said, reporting that Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would meet with his war cabinet later Monday.

Tensions in Iran "weaken the regime and rather serve Israel," the newspaper Israel Hayom said, adding that this suggested Israeli leaders would not rush to retaliate.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has warned that a "reckless" Israeli move would spark a "much stronger response".

Tehran has insisted the attack on Israel was an act of "self-defence" after the Damascus strike that killed seven Revolutionary Guards including two generals.



HM King Hamad restructures SIO and BIPD boards

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (30) of 2024 restructuring the Board of Directors of the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO), based on the nominations of the concerned authorities, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

Under Article I, the Board of

Directors of the SIO will be reconstituted as follows: Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj, Chairman; Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa, member representing the government in its capacity as an employer; Nawal Ibrahim Al Khater, member representing the government in its capacity as an employer; Osama Saleh Al Alawi, member representing the government in its capacity as



HM the King

an employer; Khaled Mohamed Najibi, member representing employers in the private sector;

Arif Ahmed Hejres, member representing employers in the private sector; Sawsan Abualhasan Mohamed, member representing employers in the private sector; Dina Ahmed Al Fayeze, member representing employees in the government sector; Donia Faisal Sarhan, member

representing employees in the government sector.

Ahmed Hassan Humaidan, member representing employees in the government sector; Ali Jaffar Al Raqraq, member representing employees in the private sector; Yaqoub Yousef Mohamed Hussein, member representing employees in the private sector; Abdullah Hassan Abdullah Mashakhil, member

representing employees in the private sector; Khaled Mohamed Abdullah Taqi, member specialised in financial and insurance affairs; and Abdullah Salah Saleh Sultan, member specialised in financial and insurance affairs.

HM the King issued Royal Order (22) of 2024, restructuring the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD).

Sustaining youthful progress

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with 25th intake of the CPISP



TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the importance of continuing to support Bahraini youth and providing more opportunities for academic growth that contribute to the development of the Kingdom of Bahrain to benefit all.

HRH Prince Salman emphasised the determination of Bahraini citizens, who remain the most successful investment in the Kingdom's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday the 25th intake of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP), alongside their parents and members of the CPISP Board of Directors, at Riffa Palace.

He congratulated the students on their admission to the programme, wishing them success in their future studies, which will demonstrate their determination to accomplish and excel.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the parents for instilling in their children a strong academic focus, thereby aiding in their personal development as well as the advancement of the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness congratulated the students on their acceptance to the programme and lauded their performance during the application process.

HRH Prince Salman noted that the students' performance in the application process gave them the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations and is a reflection of their determination to achieve their ambitions.

He also expressed the Kingdom's pride in the unwavering



“The Bahraini citizens remain the most successful investment in the Kingdom's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.”

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with the student scholars, along with their parents and members of the CPISP Board of Directors

intakes, providing invaluable development opportunities across various fields.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the dedication of the CPISP staff in supporting the students and applauded the programme's sponsors for their role in supporting the CPISP's achievements.

Recipients

The recipients of the 2024 CPISP scholarships are as fol-

lows:

Abdulrahman Hashem Abdulrahman Al Binali - American School of Bahrain; Alanood Majeed Mohamed Al Atawi - Al-Iman School; Ali Taleb Hasan Al Mutawa - Arabian Pearl Gulf School; Aseel Hani Husain Al Araibi - British School of Bahrain; Diva Manoj Kishore Bhatta - British School of Bahrain; Ebrahim Ahmed Mohamed Abdulla - Ibn Khuldoon National School;

Fatima Ali Hasan Ebrahim - Al Wafaa Secondary Girls School; Fatima Salah Abdurassool Mohamed - Bahrain Bayan School; Hasan Husain Maki Al Ekri - Naim Secondary Boys School; Hasan Majeed Abbas Aman - Isa Town Secondary Boys School; Mahmood Ali Abduljalil Al Taraif - Hamad Town Secondary Boys School; Mariam Husain Ali Al Abreeq - Saar Secondary Girls School; Masooma Ebrahim Abdali Khair - Quality Educa-

tion School; Muhammad Safwan Rushdi Arekat - Al Raja School;

Sara Ahmed Husain Husain - British School of Bahrain; Sara Hasan Mohammed Al Hamran - Saar Secondary Girls School; Sara Mohammed Abdulaziz Khalil - Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College in the UK; Sayed Hashim Jameel Mustafa Al Sharaf - St. Christopher's School; Talia Mitchell - King's College London Mathematics School in the UK; Yasmeen Amin Ahmed Al Arrayedh - St. Christopher's School.

Unwavering support

The students of the CPISP 25th intake expressed their gratitude and appreciation to His Royal Highness for his unwavering support in continuing to invest in Bahraini citizens by empowering and providing them with quality opportunities across various fields.

A number of senior officials also attended the meeting.

Arab jailed and fined for embezzling BD97,000

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the first-degree verdict sentencing an Arab defendant to seven years in prison, imposing a fine of BD10,000, and ordering his deportation from the country.

The defendant was found guilty of participating, along with others, in a scheme to embezzle amounts exceeding BD97,000.

The victims of the defendant and his accomplices included employees and a retired lawyer who were persuaded to invest their funds in gold, oil, and minerals.

The prosecution accused the defendant of conspiring and assisting an unknown accomplice in using the victims' electronic signatures, which were the secret numbers of their credit cards, for fraudulent purposes and to seize the cash amount.

Additionally, the defendant conspired and assisted another unknown person in unlawfully acquiring and embezzling the specified cash amount owned by five victims through deceptive means.

Profits

Details of the incident revealed that a gang, including several Arab individuals, deceived their victims by claiming that they would make profits by investing their money. The gang also exploited their female employees to receive these funds, with the employees unknowingly unaware that the amounts were the result of fraudulent activities.

The first victim, a pharmacist, stated that she received a fraudulent call, and the fraudster convinced her of an investment opportunity.

She transferred BD40,000 through bank transfers to the fraudster, willingly giving them part of the amount (BD20,000) herself, without knowing their true intentions. However, the remaining amount of BD20,000 was taken from her bank account without her consent or authorisation.

Reinventing healthcare

Shura Council's Services Committee reviews proposal to amend Private Health Institutions Law

TDT | Manama

The Shura Council's Services Committee yesterday discussed a proposal to amend certain provisions of Decree Law No. (21) of 2015 concerning private health institutions.

Chaired by Her Excellency Dr. Ibtisam Al-Dalal, the meeting was attended by representatives from the Supreme Council of Health, the Ministry of Health, and the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

The proposed legislation aims to safeguard the rights of Bahraini doctors to establish private clinics, medical centers, medical complexes, alternative medicine centers, or other healthcare facilities. It also permits them to practice various supporting medical professions in conjunction with other fields.

Previously, the establishment of specialized medical institutions was restricted to Bahraini doctors licensed to practice medicine or dentistry within the Kingdom of Bahrain, with exceptions made for rare medical specialties. In contrast, licenses



Image used for illustrative purposes only

to establish hospitals are granted to individuals, companies, or foreign medical institutions.

Rehabilitation

According to the proposed law, individuals seeking to establish a private health institution, along with their partners, must not have a prior conviction for a felony or a crime against honor unless they have undergone rehabilitation or received

a pardon from the relevant authorities.

Additionally, the proposal allows the heirs of the licensee to continue operating the institution, provided it is managed by a Bahraini general physician or consultant in accordance with the facility's license.

These designated professionals would assume responsibility for all technical and administrative aspects of the institution.



The proposed legislation aims to safeguard the rights of Bahraini doctors to establish private clinics, medical centers, medical complexes, alternative medicine centers, or other healthcare facilities. It also permits them to practice various supporting medical professions in conjunction with other fields.

Furthermore, heirs are permitted to retain the institution's name if it bears the name of the deceased founder.

The committee also considered perspectives and feedback from relevant authorities regarding cooperation with programs developed by the executive authority in the health sector.

Authority

Notably, the proposed law grants authority to the National Authority for Regulating Health Professions and Services to implement a national accreditation program for health institutions. Additionally, the committee discussed the concept of fines outlined in the proposed law.

Dr. Al-Dalal expressed her appreciation for the ongoing collaboration and coordination between legislative and executive bodies regarding the matter at hand.

She emphasized the prompt responses received from the Supreme Council of Health, the Ministry of Health, and the NHRA, hailing their invaluable contributions in shaping flexible and effective legislation that will be set in motion upon implementation.

Mediterranean 'top summer destination' for locals

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

As locals eagerly plan their summer holidays with friends and family, the Mediterranean has emerged as the top destination of choice.

With the official start of the summer break in July, expats return to their home countries, while locals embark on explorations of different countries.

The summer break presents an opportune time for parents to spend quality moments with their children, as schools temporarily close for the season.

Mr. Shariq Karbari, Head of Vacanza Global - The Holiday Division of Travel Knits, shared his insights with The Daily Tribune.

He stated, "Thailand, Turkey, Greece, and Europe are the most sought-after destinations during the summer season. However, the Mediterranean tends to at-



Mediterranean destinations offer stunning beaches during the summer season

tract more visitors during this time."

Karbari also noted that people are making advance bookings to secure cheaper cruise and accommodation rates, which tend to be higher during the summer season. Travel agencies are ex-

periencing a surge in activity and are offering special deals for summer vacations.

Personal recommendation

When asked about his personal recommendation for locals, Karbari mentioned Goa, India,

as a popular destination.

"Goa offers a variety of beaches, delicious seafood, and numerous activities to enjoy during the summer season," he added.

Furthermore, Karbari highlighted the popularity of summer camps among travelers.



"Thailand, Turkey, Greece, and Europe are the most sought-after destinations during the summer season. However, the Mediterranean tends to attract more visitors during this time."

SHARIQ KARBARI, HEAD OF VACANZA GLOBAL - THE HOLIDAY DIVISION OF TRAVEL KNITS

Asian national convicted in BD3,000 phone scam

Three years in jail

TDT | Manama

The Court of Appeals has sentenced an Asian national to three years in prison after he participated in a fraudulent scheme, along with an accomplice, to deceive and defraud an individual out of over BD3,000 through a fake phone call aimed at obtaining his bank card information.

The victim received a phone call requesting him to update his banking information by providing details through an electronic link. Upon opening the link, he was prompted to click on it, after which he received

a message asking him to enter a series of numbers to secure his data.

After entering the secret codes, the victim received a bank message confirming the withdrawal of BD3,000 from his account in multiple transactions. It was then that he realised he had fallen victim to a fraudulent operation aimed at stealing his money. He promptly reported the incident to the E-crimes Combat Department.

Subsequent investigations traced the operation and tracked the flow of the misappropriated amount until it reached the hands of another individual who received the funds from a financial exchange and proceeded to transfer the money abroad.

Through the security cam-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

eras, the suspect was apprehended. The investigations revealed that he and an unidentified accomplice outside Bahrain were involved in defrauding victims by offering to transfer money in exchange for agreed-upon commissions and fees.

Unlawful purpose

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with

participating, in agreement and assistance with an unknown individual, in the unauthorised use of the victim's electronic signature for an unlawful purpose, namely the misappropriation of the specified amount.

The crime was committed based on this agreement and assistance, as well as in collusion with others, with the aim of unlawfully obtaining the victim's cash funds, utilising fraudulent methods and manipulating technological information.

The Court of Appeals considered the evidence and arguments presented by the prosecution, leading to the conviction and subsequent sentencing of the defendant to three years in prison for his involvement in the fraudulent activities.

High Civil Court rejects worker's late appeal on sponsorship transfer denial

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court has dismissed an appeal by an employee against the Labour Market Regulatory Authority's (LMRA) rejection of transferring his work sponsorship.

The court ruled the worker had exceeded the legal deadline for such appeals. The labour law specifies complainants must challenge grievance outcomes in civil court within 30 days.

According to court documents, the plaintiff had been accused of embezzlement by his previous employer, though the complaint was later withdrawn with no further objection to a

transfer.

He applied to change sponsors with LMRA but was denied. A subsequent grievance against the decision also failed, prompting the lawsuit seeking to overturn the authority's ruling and reinstate his work permit.

Grievances

Citing the labour regulations, the judges noted stakeholders can lodge grievances within 30 days of a decision under the law. LMRA then has 30 days to render a decision, informing the complainant.

Any appeal against rejecting the grievance must also fall within the same 30-day window from notification.

Time for reforms

MP Buanaq rejects questioning Transport Minister over Gulf Air issues

TDI | Manama

MP Khalid Saleh Buanaq has refused calls to question the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, His Excellency Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, over Gulf Air's ongoing problems.

In a statement, Buanaq said holding the minister accountable would be misguided, as the real issues lie with Gulf Air's board of directors.

"Questioning the minister in this manner removes the matter from its proper legal and logical context, since any failures truly stem from board-level oversight, not the Cabinet," Buanaq said.

Moreover, he reiterated demands for the government to address reform proposals submitted last month. Urgent corrective steps must be taken against Gulf Air's administration, he stressed.

Responsibility

While respecting MPs seeking investigations, the lawmaker urged focusing accusations appropriately on the airline's leadership as the entity bearing responsibility, in line with governance principles.

Gulf Air's operational and financial troubles have long faced scrutiny. As a result, a Parlia-



Gulf Air's operational and financial difficulties draw scrutiny



MP Khalid Saleh Buanaq

mentary Investigation Committee was formed to examine the performance of the national carrier and it presented its report last month.

The committee had been investigating Gulf Air since last November following reports of financial troubles at the national

"Questioning the minister in this manner removes the matter from its proper legal and logical context, since any failures truly stem from board-level oversight, not the Cabinet."

- MP KHALID SALEH BUANAQ



H.E. Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi

carrier. In its report, the committee recommended introducing private sector ownership to improve Gulf Air's performance and productivity, which it described as weak and the main cause of losses.

The committee revealed Gulf Air is in debt for oil services, air-

port services, cargo, passenger handling, maintenance, airspace and marketing fees, as well as aircraft purchases and leases.

It noted Gulf Air did not disclose the full amount of outstanding debts and failed to provide detailed statements of all receivables and payables.

'Exempt Transport Minister from interrogation'

TDI | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and National Security Committee, announced her decision to vote against questioning His Excellency Mr. Mohammed bin Thamer Al-Kaabi, Minister of Transport and Communications.

Al-Dhaen explained her stance, stating that she firmly believes the minister, as the political representative, should not be questioned regarding Gulf Air, as it falls outside the scope of his responsibilities and is not permissible under the company's statute, according to the laws.

She emphasized that while interrogation is an essential parliamentary tool, it should be used appropriately, and Gulf Air's transgressions do not warrant questioning the Minister of Transport and Communications.

Regarding Gulf Air's performance, Al-Dhaen praised the positive results achieved over the past five years, particularly amidst challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted initiatives undertaken to control losses and maintain revenues.

She noted that Gulf Air has worked to increase revenues and reduce expenses, with the budget prepared under Gulf



"Interrogation represents a very important parliamentary tool, but it must be used in its appropriate place, which is not appropriate to the issue of Gulf Air's transgressions and does not fall within the responsibility of the Minister of Transport and Communications."

- MP DR. MARYAM AL-DHAEN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Air Holding Group's supervision in alignment with the company's growth plan.

A comprehensive plan has been devised to reduce losses and enhance income through various strategies.

NOTICE

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company B.S.C "BCFC" gives notice of its intention to suspend providing regulated financial services in its branch located in Hamalah in Building B3106, Road 1448 Block 1014, starting from 16 May 2024. Customers of the branch will be served at all BCFC branches including the new branch that will be opened in District 2 mall in Janabiya in Building 57, Road 7901, Block 579, is targeted to be opened on 16 May 2024 (subject to final approvals from the Central Bank of Bahrain). The new branch working hours will be Sunday to Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm.

For more information please visit our official website www.bahraincredit.com.bh, or call us at 8000 8000



شركة البحرين للتسهيلات التجارية ش.م.ب.
BAHRAIN COMMERCIAL FACILITIES COMPANY BSC
Financing Company Licensed by the CBB

Bahrain releases safety guidelines for heavy rain



Zahra Ayaz
TDI | Manama

In light of the heavy rainfall that has been affecting the Kingdom in recent days, authorities have issued safety guidelines to ensure the well-being of residents and mitigate potential risks.

The occurrence of heavy rain can be attributed to the global phenomenon of climate change, which has been impacting various regions of the world.

Environmental expert Mr. Kai Keighth told The Daily Tribune that while changes in weather patterns do not necessarily indicate a worsening situation, they can have significant consequences for humans, animals, and the environment.

"While rain is essential for nurturing plants and vegetation, it can also disrupt the delicate balance of nature. Human

attempts to influence weather patterns, such as cloud seeding to induce more rainfall, can lead to unintended consequences. The recent example of increased rainfall in the United Arab Emirates resulting in severe flooding serves as a cautionary tale."

Stark reminder

He further added, "Germany, too, experienced the effects of extreme rainfall in May 2021, with three times the usual amount of rain falling in just three days. This led to devastating floods, causing extensive damage estimated at 40 billion Euros. The incident serves as a stark reminder that the repercussions of present human activities may not be immediately apparent but will undoubtedly impact future generations."

To ensure the safety of residents during heavy rain, au-

"While changes in weather patterns do not necessarily indicate a worsening situation, they can have significant consequences for humans, animals, and the environment."

- KAI KEIGHTH, ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT

thorities in Bahrain have issued a set of guidelines. Citizens are advised to avoid rainwater puddles and seek alternative routes to prevent accidents. It is also important to yield to water tankers on the road to maintain smooth traffic flow.

BENEFIT announces enhanced security with new ID Verification Feature for BenefitPay users

TDT | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, announced the launch of its new Identity Verification (IDV) feature for BenefitPay.

This state-of-the-art technology represents a significant advancement in security protocols, empowering BenefitPay users with enhanced protection and ensuring a frictionless payment

journey.

The IDV feature brings substantial advantages for both BENEFIT and its users by employing a robust two-step authentication process to validate the authenticity of BenefitPay users.

This process entails cross-referencing government-issued identification documents with a live selfie captured by the user's device.

Moreover, there are no additional charges for utilizing IDV,

ensuring seamless security without any extra financial burden for users.

By verifying user documentation through cross-referencing, IDV serves as a formidable barrier against fraud, effectively preventing unauthorized access to BenefitPay accounts and safeguarding sensitive financial data.

This two-step verification process not only confirms the identity of the account holder but also fortifies security by pre-

venting unauthorized individuals from accessing BenefitPay accounts, even if they possess login credentials.

Ahmed AlMahri, Assistant General Manager - Business Development & Services - BENEFIT commented on the launch, "At BENEFIT, the security and trust of our customers are of utmost importance to us. The introduction of IDV for BenefitPay underscores this dedication. In the unfortunate event of a scammer acquiring a user's one-

time password (OTP), the IDV feature acts as an extra layer of authentication. This resilient defense mechanism plays a crucial role in deterring and preventing unauthorized access to user wallets, thereby securing their financial information."

"This innovative feature adds a powerful layer of protection to user accounts and financial information, empowering them to navigate their payment journeys with complete confidence.", he concluded.



Ahmed AlMahri, Assistant General Manager - Business Development & Services - BENEFIT

Alba wins four Awards from National Safety Council

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, announced that it has won four major National Safety Council (NSC) USA awards for 2024, namely Perfect Record Award, Occupational Excellence Achievement Award, Milestone Award and Million Work Hours Award.

Alba's commitment to Safety earned them 4 NSC's Milestones Building on a remarkable 2023, after they recently hit another Safety milestone with more than 16 million safe working hours without Lost Time Injury.

"At Alba, Safety is a continuous process, not a destination," said CEO Ali Al Baqali.

"Keeping our employees safe is our number one priority, this commitment creates a strong Safety environment and ensures the very best Safety practices throughout all our operations. Winning these NSC awards recognizes our team's hard work and motivates us to keep Safety at the forefront."

Alba will be presented with the four NSC Awards at the 2024 National Safety Council Congress and Expo, that will be held in Orlando, USA in September 2024.

For over 100 years, the NSC has been America's leading



Alba CEO Ali Al Baqali



Keeping our employees safe is our number one priority, this commitment creates a strong Safety environment and ensures the very best Safety practices throughout all our operations

ALBA CEO ALI AL BAQALI

nonprofit Safety advocate Its mission focusses on eliminating the leading causes of preventable deaths and injuries at work, home, and anywhere else.

BTEA makes waves in "Seatrade Cruise Global 2024" exhibition and conference in Florida

TDT | Manama

A delegation from the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) took part in Seatrade Cruise Global 2024 in Florida, USA.

This four-day event stands as the largest gathering within the cruise ship industry worldwide, drawing in senior industry professionals and decision-makers from various corners of the globe.

Alongside over 600 leading exhibitors, more than 10,000 visitors from 120 countries converged at the event.

BTEA, along with several prominent Bahraini companies, entities, tourism offices, and marine vessel sector facilities, participated in the official "Cruise Arabia" pavilion at the exhibition. This pavilion featured exhibitors and companies engaged in port operations, airlines, and tourist destination management in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and the Sultanate of Oman.

The objective was to bolster partnerships and collaboration with GCC states in marine tourism, and to forge memorandums of understanding to foster joint Gulf projects supporting the burgeoning cruise ship industry development in these nations.

Furthermore, the endeavor sought to attract a greater number of ships and cruise liners to



The delegation from BTEA at the event

the Kingdom of Bahrain, positioning it as a premier destination for cruise ships on the global stage.

The exhibition provided the Authority with an exceptional platform to spotlight Bahrain's significant prowess in marine tourism while underscoring the available docking opportunities for cruise ships and yachts in Bahrain.

Sarah Buhijji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority expressed her delight at participating in the exhibition, which she deemed as a crucial opportunity to accomplish several objectives outlined in BTEA's tourism and promotional strategies.

The CEO of BTEA commented: "The exhibition offered us a significant opportunity to showcase the remarkable achievements of the 2023-2024 season and to underscore the Kingdom of Bahrain's prominent status as a key player in the global marine tourism scene. It emphasized Bahrain's exceptional appeal as a marine destination, offering a plethora of options for tourists, thanks to its ability to attract various types of ships, including tourist vessels, luxury liners, and giant cruise ships."

BTEA's participation aimed to facilitate meetings with representatives of international cruise ship companies to ex-

plore collaboration opportunities and showcase the incentives and facilities provided by the Kingdom to attract more cruise ships, and sought to improve communication between the Authority, other relevant authorities, and international maritime transport companies.

Furthermore, the delegation members gained valuable insights into the latest trends shaping the global marine tourism market, as this participation marks a significant stride towards realizing the Authority's goals of advancing the marine tourism sector and increasing tourist arrivals from diverse nations, aligning with Bahrain's tourism strategy for 2022-2026.

Apple announces Vietnam spending boost as CEO visits Hanoi

AFP | Hanoi

Tech giant Apple said yesterday it would increase spending on suppliers in Vietnam, a key production hub, as CEO Tim Cook arrived in the country for a two-day visit.

The iPhone maker announced the news in a statement on its website but gave no details of how much it would spend or where the money would go.

Cook is expected to meet programmers, content creators and students during his visit, according to VnExpress.

The visit comes as US President Joe Biden's administration seeks to ramp up Vietnam's role in the global tech supply chain in order to reduce American dependence on China.

Images on the VnExpress news site showed Cook taking a walk by Hoan Kiem lake in downtown Hanoi.



Apple CEO Tim Cook (C) walks near Hoan Kiem lake in downtown Hanoi

"Hello Vietnam. I am so excited to be here today. I can't wait to see all the developers and creators in the community," the Apple boss said in a video posted on the news site.

The Apple statement said the company has spent nearly 400 trillion dong (\$16 billion) since 2019 through its local supply chain and has more than doubled its annual spending to Vietnam during the same period.

Oil sinks on de-escalation hopes following Iran strike

TDT | Manama

World oil prices sank yesterday as traders bet on de-escalation in the Middle East despite a strike on Israel by key crude producer Iran.

Brent and WTI prices shed around one percent, while global stock markets diverged.

Haven investment gold dipped yesterday after reaching a record peak of \$2,431.52 before the weekend.

The dollar touched a fresh 34-year high against the yen at over 154 yen to the greenback, and reached its highest point since November against a basket of rival currencies.

"The market sees de-escala-



Oil rig and pump of H&P Rig 488 in Stanton, Texas

tion as the most likely path despite the Iranian strike," noted analysts at DNB Markets.

"The attack was well an-

nounced, with Israel and its allies fully prepared, it caused minor damage and no casualties, and with Iran quickly out saying

that 'the matter can be deemed concluded'. A clear invitation to de-escalate."

Experts said the limited scope of the attack showed Iran was seeking to make a show of strength, but without sparking a conflict.

US President Joe Biden was reported to have cautioned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "take the win" and forego a counterattack.

Nevertheless, Asian equities mostly fell on fears of a broader conflict in the volatile Middle East, although Shanghai stocks jumped higher on news of fresh regulatory measures that could help its long-term performance.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
IN THIS WORLD NOTHING CAN BE SAID TO BE CERTAIN, EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES
 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

TODAY IN HISTORY
1457BC
 Battle of Megiddo: Egyptian forces of Thutmose III defeat a large Canaanite coalition under King of Kadesh. First battle recorded with a reliable account

1705

Queen Anne of England knights Isaac Newton at Trinity College, Cambridge



1746

Jacobite Rising 1745: Battle of Culloden, the last battle on British soil. Royalist troops under the Duke of Cumberland defeat the Jacobite army of Charles Edward Stuart

1948

Organization for European Economic Cooperation (EEC) forms in Paris

News in brief

Japan's Sapporo sees earliest 25C day since records began
 ♦ Temperatures in Japan's northern city of Sapporo -- famous for skiing -- yesterday passed 25 degrees Celsius at the earliest point of any year on record, a weather agency official said. Sapporo, the main city on the island of Hokkaido, hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics and each February holds a snow festival where massive ice sculptures draw tens of thousands of visitors. "The temperature in Sapporo hit 26 degrees... and is still rising." Shuichi Yoshida, an official at the regional headquarters of the Japan Meteorological Agency, told AFP in the early afternoon. It is the earliest that temperatures in the city have passed 25 degrees Celsius (77 Fahrenheit), which the JMA classifies as a "summer's day", since records began there in 1877.

China officials reject criticism of new Hong Kong security law
 ♦ China blasted critics of Hong Kong's new national security law on Wednesday, after Western powers and the United Nations said it would further curtail freedoms in the finance hub. The city's legislature passed the law unanimously on Tuesday, introducing tough new penalties for five categories of crimes including treason and theft of state secrets. Commonly referred to as Article 23, the homegrown security law will work in tandem with a 2020 Beijing-imposed version that has silenced nearly all dissent in Hong Kong and seen nearly 300 people arrested since its enactment.

6.5-magnitude quake hits Papua New Guinea: USGS
 ♦ A strong 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit northern Papua New Guinea early yesterday, but there was no threat of a tsunami, US seismologists said. The epicentre of the quake, which hit at 0656 local time (2056 GMT), was roughly 110 kilometres (68 miles) east-southeast of Kimbe on the island of New Britain, at a depth of 64 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said in a statement that there was "no tsunami threat". There were no immediate local reports of damage.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Australia reunites magpie and dog after uproar



The magpie, called Molly, with Staffordshire bull terrier Peggy
 AFP | Sydney

Australian authorities yesterday issued a licence allowing a magpie called Molly to reunite with a pet dog, after sparking public outrage by keeping the unlikely friends apart. Now, the department says it has issued a "specialised licence" to the couple, Juliette Wells and Reece Mortensen, after they agreed to undergo wildlife carer training and make no commercial gain from the bird or its image. The bird was returned home, it said. Veterinary experts had advised that the magpie "can never be rehabilitated or returned to the wild", it said in a statement. The decision followed an intervention by Queensland's premier, Stephen Miles, after the animal mates were separated. Miles vowed that the state would work with the couple so Molly could be reunited with her family, saying "common sense needs to prevail". Announcing Molly's impending homecoming last week, the state premier wrote on X: "I would like to thank everyone who has written to me to share their concerns and advocate for Molly's return."

Kuwait taps ex-oil minister to form latest government



Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah takes part in a meeting by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries in Cairo (file photo)
 AFP | Kuwait City

Kuwait's emir Yesterday tasked a former oil minister with forming a new government, state media reported, after the latest parliamentary polls in the Gulf state riven by political instability. "Today an Emiri order was issued appointing Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as prime minister and assigning him to nominate members of the new cabinet," the Kuwait News Agency said. The move comes just a few months into the reign of Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah and less than two weeks after Kuwait's third parliamentary vote in as many years saw the opposition maintain its majority. The government resigned a day after those polls held on April 4. The outgoing prime minister, Sheikh Mohammad Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, refused to take up the position again amid ongoing tensions between the government and the 50-member National Assembly. Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah, the 71-year-old new prime minister, served as oil and information minister from 2009 to 2011 and has recently been head of the crown prince's court with a ministerial rank. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance, banking and investment from the University of Illinois. Kuwait boasts approximately seven percent of the world's oil reserves and the Gulf's most powerful elected assembly.

Trump's landmark criminal trial opens in New York

Donald Trump faces highly anticipated criminal trial for alleged hush money

Donald Trump accused of falsifying records for hush money
Possible imprisonment threatens his political future

AFP | New York



Former US President Donald Trump speaks the press as he arrives for the first day of his trial

Donald Trump's New York criminal trial opened yesterday in a historic first for a US ex-president and a seismic twist to an already explosive 2024 presidential election, where the scandal-plagued Republican is seeking to return to power. "Good morning Mr Trump," Judge Juan Merchan said to the defendant in the courtroom, where the Republican sat with hunched shoulders and a stern expression. Jury selection was due to start shortly, but given the notoriety of the case it could take as much as two weeks for defense lawyers

and prosecutors to agree on the panel of 12 jurors. Trump, wearing his trademark red tie, white shirt and blue suit, struck a defiant stance, telling a throng of journalists on arrival at the gritty Manhattan courthouse that his trial was an "outrage" and an "assault on America." He then strode into the courtroom, walking past nine rows of wooden benches and took his seat. The 77-year-old is accused of falsifying business records in a scheme to cover up an alleged extramarital sexual encounter with adult film actress Stormy Daniels to shield his 2016 election campaign from a last-minute upheaval. The so-called hush money affair is one of four criminal cases hanging over Trump, including



The so-called hush money affair is one of four criminal cases hanging over Trump, including historic prosecutions against the Republican's alleged attempts to subvert the 2020 election and prevent the winner, Joe Biden, from taking office

historic prosecutions against the Republican's alleged attempts to subvert the 2020 election and prevent the winner, Joe Biden, from taking office. If convicted in the hush money case, Trump would potentially face years in prison, but legal ob-

servers consider this unlikely. Even so, the prospect of Trump becoming a convicted felon throws an unprecedented wild card into an already unpredictable November 5 election, where he wants to defeat Biden and re-take the White House. The hard-right populist is running on dark vows of "vengeance" and seeking to spin his criminal cases as evidence of persecution. Yesterday his campaign released a video portraying Trump with the trappings of the presidency and warning his supporters that "they want to take away my freedom because I will never let them take away my freedoms." Attempting to keep up his trademark bravado, Trump said last week that he will take the stand in the trial -- a highly unusual and often risky move for defendants. For jury selection, a pool of ordinary citizens convened by Merchan must answer a questionnaire including checks on whether they have been members of far-right groups.

Oman floods kill 16 including schoolchildren



A video grab shows two vehicles in flood water
 AFP | Muscat

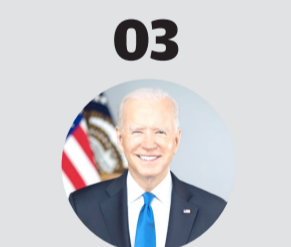
Flooding in Oman has killed at least 16 people, many of them schoolchildren, authorities said following the discovery of the bodies of a child and three adults yesterday. The Gulf sultanate's official news agency initially reported on Sunday that nine schoolchildren and three other adults had "lost their lives after their vehicles got swept away in gushing wadi waters". Five individuals were also reported missing in the floods that struck the northeast of the country. The Oman News Agency reported yesterday the bodies of a child and three further individuals and had also been recovered. Violent thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds beginning on Sunday have battered the country, causing flash floods in several regions in the north and east of Oman. The sultanate's Council of Ministers said in a statement it was "filled with grief" and "extends its sincere condolences and sympathies to the families and relatives of school students who recently died in the Governorate of A'Sharqiyah". Yesterday, the Ministry of Education shuttered schools in most regions as a precaution against the flooding which also resulted in the closure of a number of roads. Dozens left stranded were rescued in operations aided by helicopters from Oman's air force. Storms were expected to affect other Gulf states, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, later in the day. Flooding had already claimed the lives of three children during downpours in Oman in February.

X
TOP 4 TWEETS
01
X

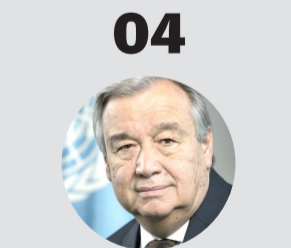
If you're experiencing severe neck/back pain, I recommend looking into a disc replacement. If you do, err on the side of a disc with limited movement. A simple hinge is more likely to be effective than a high mobility artificial disc that can translate, as well as rotate.
 @elonmusk



02
 Ukraine's reform & investment strategy offers a solid basis for a more modern, prosperous Ukraine, on its EU path. The @EU-Commission 's endorsement of the Ukraine Plan today is a big step forward. It paves the way for regular payments under the €50 billion Ukraine Facility.
 @vonderleyen



03
 A great deal of history in our world will be written in the Indo-Pacific. And the partnership between the United States, Philippines, and Japan will make that story more prosperous, secure, and free.
 @POTUS



04
 Monday marks one year since the start of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. This is more than a conflict between two warring parties. It is a war being waged on the Sudanese people.
 @antoniogetteres

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Prince Harry loses bid to appeal UK security ruling

AFP | London



Prince Harry

Prince Harry will not be allowed to appeal the downgrading of his personal security when he visits Britain, a court ruled yesterday. The youngest son of King Charles III took legal action after the British government told him in 2020 that he would no longer be given the "same degree" of publicly-funded protection when he is in the UK. The High Court ruled in February that the UK government had acted lawfully. High Court judge Peter Lane said in a 52-page judgement that the "bespoke process" devised for him by a committee which is under the remit of the interior ministry "was, and is, relocated to North America in 2020 with his wife Meghan, eventually settling in California in the United States, and is no longer classified as a working royal. Harry told a hearing at London's High Court in December that security concerns were preventing visits back to Britain. "The UK is my home. The UK is central to the heritage of my children," he said in a written statement read out by his lawyers. "That cannot happen if it's not possible to keep them safe. "I cannot put my wife in danger like that and, given my experiences in life, I am reluctant to unnecessarily put myself in harm's way too."

Four wounded in Sydney church attack, 15-year-old arrested



New South Wales police guard the perimeter of the Christ the Good Shepherd Church
 AFP | Sydney

A knife attack at a live-streamed church service in Australia wounded four people yesterday and sparked clashes between riot police and outraged members of the local community. A bishop and the 15-year-old suspect were among those being treated for "non-life threatening injuries" after the attack at an Assyrian Christian church in the west of Sydney. Police said the suspect is being held at an undisclosed location after his alleged attack provoked communal violence that also left two officers hospitalised. The incident came two days after a man with a knife killed six people at a shopping mall in the city's east before being shot dead by police.

Marcos says will not hand Duterte to ICC over drug war

AFP | Manila



Supporters of Philippine lawmaker France Castro hold a noise barrage before the preliminary investigation of her grave threat complaint filed against former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte
 AFP | Manila

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday he would not hand his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte to the International Criminal Court, which is investigating his deadly drug war. "We don't recognise the warrant that they will send to us. That's a no," Marcos said at a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. "Thousands of people have been killed in the anti-narcotics campaign started by former president Duterte in 2016 and continued under Marcos.

Duterte withdrew the Philippines from the International Criminal Court in 2019 after the Hague-based tribunal started probing allegations of human rights abuses committed during his drug war. Marcos has repeatedly ruled out rejoining the court. The ICC launched a formal inquiry into Duterte's crackdown in September 2021, only to suspend it two months later after Manila said it was re-examining several hundred cases of drug operations that led to deaths at the hands of police, hitmen and vigilantes.

Macron says will do everything to avoid Middle East 'conflagration'



Emmanuel Macron
 AFP | Paris

President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that France would help do everything to avoid an escalation in the Middle East after an unprecedented Iranian missile and drone attack on Israel. Iran launched its first-ever direct assault on Israeli territory late Saturday in retaliation for a deadly April 1 air strike on Tehran's consulate building in Syria's capital Damascus that was widely blamed on Israel. "We will do everything to avoid a conflagration that is to say an escalation," he told the BFMTV news channel. French jets helped repel an Iranian violation of Jordan's air space, Macron added. "For several years now we have had an air base in Jordan to fight terrorism," he said. "Jordanian airspace was violated... We made our planes take off and we intercepted what we had to intercept." Experts say Israel was able to neutralise most of the missiles and drones.

Judge finds staffer committed rape in Australian parliament

AFP | Sydney



A general view of the Australian Parliament House building in Canberra

An Australian judge ruled yesterday that a conservative political staffer likely committed rape in parliament, a dramatic twist in a case that sparked national protests. The judge threw out a defamation suit brought by the former staffer, Bruce Lehrmann, against Network 10 television after it broadcast an interview with his alleged victim, Brittany Higgins. A criminal case against him on a charge of sexual intercourse without consent collapsed in October 2022. A court judge had discovered a jury member with an academic paper on sexual assault -- a document prohibited by the trial's strict rules. Higgins has alleged that Lehrmann raped her on a couch inside the national parliamentary office of a government minister following a night of heavy drinking in March 2019. Lehrmann has stridently maintained his innocence and has not been convicted of any criminal offence. "Mr Lehrmann raped Ms Higgins. I hasten to stress; this is a finding on the balance of probabilities," the judge said. "Mr Lehrmann remains a man who has not been convicted of any offence, but he has now been found, by the civil standard of proof, to have engaged in a great wrong," Lee

CELEBS

celebs

Oprah Winfrey: I've never been to a therapist



Oprah Winfrey

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Oprah Winfrey turns to Gayle King for "real therapy".

The 70-year-old TV star has been friends with Gayle, 69, for decades, and Oprah has often turned to her showbiz pal for help and support, rather than a professional therapist.

Oprah told PEOPLE: "I've never been to a therapist because I had so many on the show, but my real therapy came from downloading whatever was happening in the day with Gayle every night."

Oprah and Gayle supported each other throughout the early years of their careers.

The TV icon shared: "There wasn't a day that we missed being on some kind of phone call talking about what had happened in our days."

Oprah is now hugely grateful for Gayle's support.

She said: "I've had one of the best friendships anybody could have. And you can only do that when somebody cares as much about your success, your sadnesses, your triumphs as you do."

Meanwhile, Oprah previously revealed that she wants to "help other people to rise".

The veteran star has already achieved a huge amount in her own career, and she's now keen to support other people.

Oprah - who hosted her eponymous talk show for 25 seasons - told PEOPLE: "I still continue to rise, and I'm in a space now where my offering is to help other people to rise. The principle that is the underbelly, the cornerstone for how I operate in the world ... Life is better when you share it."

Tom Cruise gave Dakota Fanning her first mobile phone

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Tom Cruise gave Dakota Fanning her first mobile phone.

The 'Top Gun: Maverick' actor, 61, famed for gifting his pals cakes for special occasions, gave her the present for her 11th birthday after they starred together in 2005's 'War of the Worlds' - and has sent her a gift every year since.

She told Harper's Bazaar in a joint interview with her 47-year-old 'Ripley' co-star Andrew Scott about the phone present when they were asked: "Who gave Dakota her first cell phone?"

Andrew guessed: "Okay, well it's going to be some Hollywood icon... Tom Cruise?"

Dakota agreed and said Tom had given her a Motorola Razr when she turned 11, with Andrew asking: "Were you so excited?"

Dakota replied: "Oh, my God, I was so excited."

But she said she "didn't have anybody to call or text at that time", adding: "You know, I was 11. But I loved having it. I loved it. I felt so cool."

She went on: "Tom sends me a birthday gift every year, and has since that birthday. "So thoughtful. Really, really nice."

Andrew joked: "He's never given me anything."

Tom's Motorola Razr was far from the only gift Dakota got from a Hollywood A-lister during the early days of her career.

While again appearing alongside Andrew for Elle's 'Ask Me Anything' interview series, the actress said the "best" wrap gift she ever received was given to her by Kurt Russell,

73, with whom she co-star in 2005's 'Dreamer'.

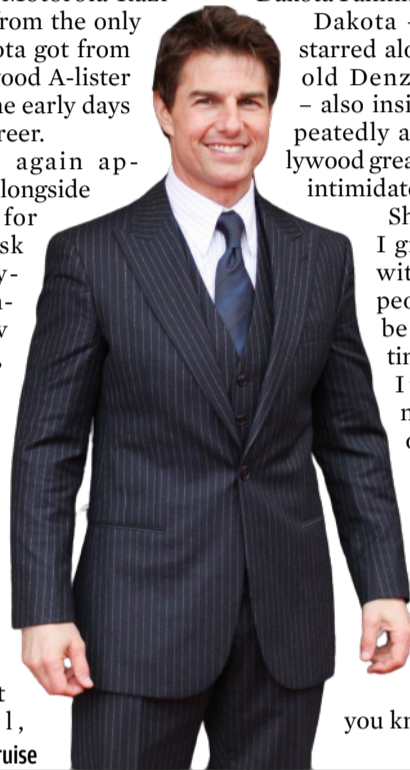
She said: "Kurt Russell gave me a horse."

Andrew joked: "That could be your autobiography: 'Kurt Russell Gave Me a Horse: The Dakota Fanning Story.'"

Dakota - who has also starred alongside 69-year-old Denzel Washington - also insisted despite repeatedly acting with Hollywood greats, she didn't get intimidated.

She said: "Because I grew up familiar with being around people who would be considered 'intimidating' kind of, I think it might've numbed that side of me a little."

"When you're eight years old you're sort of just getting to know a person as a person and not thinking about all of the other stuff, you know?"



Tom Cruise

Jennifer Aniston has 'learned lessons' about fame since starting out in Friends

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jennifer Aniston is "still excited" by fame - even though she has "learned lessons".

The 55-year-old actress shot to global fame in the early 1990s when she was cast as Rachel Green in 'Friends' opposite Courtney Cox,

Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, David Schwimmer and the late Matthew Perry but whilst everything was "magic" in those days, she admitted that they all have a little more experience these days.

She told People: "Oh, everything was the most exciting thing on the planet. It was just magic. Nothing was not exciting. And it's still exciting, but we've had more experiences. We've learned more lessons. There's a little more behind us."

Since the NBC sitcom ended its 10-season run, Jennifer has gone on to a major Hollywood career with roles in films like 'Marley and Me', and is currently starring opposite Reese Witherspoon in Apple+ hit 'The Morning Show' but admitted that all these years later, amongst the biggest lessons she has learned throughout her career is just to "be kind" and have "patience" with her co-stars.

She said: "There's so many. Patience, to be kind, Jennifer Aniston

to respect your fellow actors. And just tell the truth."

Jennifer had been struggling to make it in Hollywood until she had a chance meeting with television executive Warren Littlefield in a gas station, who recommended her for the part in 'Friends'.

But when the actress was asked what advice she would give her younger self, she admitted that she wouldn't be so focused on "making it" big as she remembered her first acting appearance in a school Nativity play at the age of 11.

Discussing when she first caught the acting bug, she said: "Probably when I was onstage for the first time when I was about 11. I was in a Nativity play, and I played the archangel. From that moment on I caught the bug."

She said: "There's so many. Patience, to be kind, Jennifer Aniston



Jennifer Aniston

Paris Hilton has been saving clothes for a little girl 'her whole life'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Paris Hilton spent her life saving clothes for her daughter before she was born.

The 42-year-old heiress is married to Carter Reum and already has Phoenix, 15, months with him but the couple welcomed London towards the end of last year and she revealed that she already had multiple pieces of fashion put away for her.

She told Us Weekly: "I've saved pieces for London my entire life before she was [even] here!"

The former 'Simple Life' star added that it was something that her mother Kathy had done for her as she gushed that her own daughter is going to have "quite the wardrobe" as she grows.

She said: "Ever since the beginning, my mom saved me so many amazing pieces. So I always knew one day when I

had a daughter that I wanted to save her all of my favorite iconic pieces. She is going to have quite the wardrobe!"

Following the birth of her little girl, Paris noted that her life felt "so complete" with her children.

Speaking on the 'TODAY' show, she said: "She is just a little angel and my life just feels so complete with my little baby boy and my baby girl. We're just over the moon."

The blonde beauty announced the arrival of their daughter via a social media post.

Alongside a photo of some baby clothes, Paris wrote on Instagram: "Thankful for my baby girl [tears, heart and baby emojis] (sic)"

Paris also revealed the inspiration behind her baby's name.

She said on the 'I am Paris' podcast: "I've always wanted to name my daughter London. I had actually picked that name for a long time now, probably over 10 years. I always wanted London. I love that name for my daughter."

Paris Hilton



Paris Hilton

Sofia Vergara declares her love for new boyfriend

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Sofia Vergara has declared her love for her new boyfriend.

The 'Griselda' actress - who split from husband Joe Manganiello in July 2023 after seven years of marriage - praised orthopaedic surgeon Justin Saliman as she revealed he was helping to support her as she recovers from knee surgery.

Sharing a photo of the doctor smiling in his scrubs, she wrote on her Instagram Story: "If u ever get a [major] knee surgery make sure u Get a handsome doc- Sofia Vergara

tor who will sleep with u that night... ! Luv u Dr @jdsaliman (sic)"

The 'America's Got Talent' judge was first romantically linked to the medic in October 2023.

A source told People magazine at the time: "She is enjoying life. She seems positive and full of energy."

"Sofia has been handling the divorce well. It wasn't an easy decision, but she is doing great now."

Earlier this year, Sofia revealed that she's open to "having fun and meeting people".

Asked if she's been using any dating apps in her bid to find love, Sofia told the Daily Mail newspaper: "No, I wish! I'm bad with technology, so I'm sure I would click on the wrong ones."



Sofia Vergara

SUDOKU

8	2		1	4	9	5		
4		9		3				
		9				6	2	
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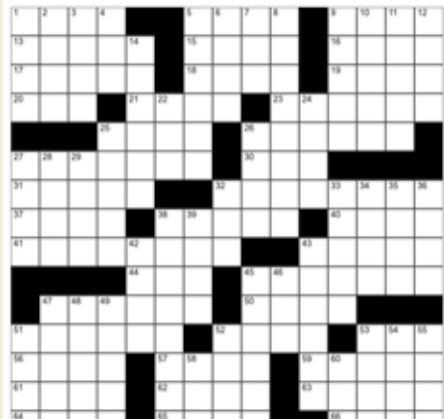
Yesterday's solution

1	2	4	8	3	5	7	6	9
3	7	6	4	2	9	1	5	8
9	8	5	6	1	7	4	2	3
7	5	9	1	4	6	3	8	2
2	1	3	9	7	8	5	4	6
4	6	8	2	5	3	9	7	1
5	3	1	7	8	2	6	9	4
6	4	2	5	9	1	8	3	7
8	9	7	3	6	4	2	1	5

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Bounce back; 5- Ardent; 9- Mogul capital until 1658; 13- Give guns again; 15- Achy; 16- Mai; 17- French farewell; 18- Thailand, once; 19- Guns; 20- Sun. speech; 21- Saxophone part; 23- Beaten egg dish; 25- Poems, often used to praise someone or something; 26- Most cunning; 27- Benums; 30- Illuminated; 31- Step inside; 32- Shipwrecked person; 37- Plugging away; 38- Archie Bunker's wife; 40- Shipping deduction; 41- Unsymmetrical; 43- Gold coin; 44- Prefix meaning "beneath"; 45- Capital of Kenya; 47- Souvenirs; 50- Bring home the bacon; 51- Midday nap; 52- Almost unobtainable; 53- Oh, give home...; 56- Franklin D.'s mother; 57- Yonder thing; 59- High-fives; 61- Hissy fit; 62- Husband of a courtesan; 63- Belief; 64- Canonized Fr. women; 65- June 6, 1944; 66- Draft status;

Down

1- Historic periods; 2- Yield; 3- "Aquarius" musical; 4- Prospector's find; 5- Evaluate; 6- Emptiness; 7- George Gershwin's brother; 8- Tear down; 9- Grows in Brooklyn; 10- Some Celts; 11- Metal pin; 12- Type of D.A.; 14- Unlawful killing; 22- Poet's dusk; 24- Baseball glove; 25- "Waiting for Lefty" playwright; 26- Narrow strip of wood; 27- Distribute cards; 28- Within (prefix); 29- Take from me...; 32- Spain's El; 33- Take for the worse; 34- Texas city; 35- Member of a largely Middle Eastern people; 36- Abominable Snowman; 38- Learned; 39- Ball girls; 42- soup yet; 43- Most urgent; 45- Tidily; 46- Swiss river; 47- Laughing; 48- Uncanny; 49- Atty.-to-be exams; 51- Flat sound; 52- avis; 53- Jazz flutist Herbie; 54- Sporting blade; 55- Nick and Nora's pet; 58- Owned; 60- Zodiac sign;

Yesterday's solution

S	A	B	E	R	C	A	S			C	R	U			
A	G	U	N	E	U	R	O	S		M	I	A	S		
A	R	L	O		A	B	O	R	T		O	T	H		
B	A	L	L	A	D		N	E	A	R	N	E	S	S	
		A	D	A	R		S	R	A	S					
S	T	E		O	B	I	S		E	M	O	T	E	S	
T	I	A		S	L	A	P	S		S	O	N	I	C	
R	A	G	U		E	L	I	O	T		N	O	D	E	
A	R	E	S	O		S	T	O	R	E		T	E	N	
P	A	R	E	N	T		E	T	A	L		E	R	E	
		L	I	R	A		Y	V	E	S					
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A		E	M	E	R	G	E	
M	E	L	S		N	O	S		I	R		N	O	E	L
I	R	A	S		T	S	A	R	S		D	O	L	L	
T	I	P			E	P	E	E		S	S	T	S		

Mumbai coach Pollard 'sick and fed up' of Pandya bashing



Hardik Pandya of Mumbai Indians plays a shot (file photo)

AFP | Mumbai

It is only a matter of time until Hardik Pandya hits form in the IPL, warned Kieron Pollard, saying he was "sick and fed up" of the flak levelled at the all-rounder.

Pandya has been booed incessantly since replacing veteran Rohit Sharma as captain of five-time champions the Mumbai Indians for the current edition of the Twenty20 tournament.

With the 30-year-old Pandya again failing to fire with bat and ball, Mumbai slumped to their fourth loss in six games this term when they faced Chennai Super Kings on Sun-

day.

Mumbai batting coach Pollard gave his full support afterwards to Pandya, who captained Gujarat to the IPL title in 2022 and is expected to be a key player for India at the T20 World Cup in June.

"I am sick and fed up of (people) looking to pinpoint individuals," Pollard said after Mumbai's 20-run loss at their Wankhede Stadium.

"Cricket is a team game at the end of the day.

"This is an individual that is going to represent the country in less than six weeks' time, and all are going to cheer him and want him to do well."

Returning Nadal wants to enjoy comeback 'gift'

AFP | Barcelona

Tennis superstar Rafael Nadal said yesterday returning to action at the Barcelona Open is a "gift" and he wants to enjoy every moment of what he expects to be the last year of his career.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner has not played an ATP Tour match since January, when he felt a hip injury flare up at the Brisbane International.

Nadal, who missed virtually all of the 2023 season, will face Italian Flavio Cobolli on Tuesday in the first round on the centre-court in Barcelona which bears his own name.

The 37-year-old withdrew from the Monte Carlo Masters earlier in April and is hoping to compete at Roland Garros in May, where he is a record 14-time champion.

"More than lamenting where I wasn't able to be, I prefer to be happy that I am here," Nadal



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a backhand return during a training

told a news conference.

"On a personal level it is a gift for me to be in Barcelona. I'm taking this as my last year and I want to enjoy every moment."

Nadal, the record 12-time Barcelona Open winner, has not played a match on clay since winning the French Open in 2022.

”

More than lamenting where I wasn't able to be, I prefer to be happy that I am here. On a personal level it is a gift for me to be in Barcelona. I'm taking this as my last year and I want to enjoy every moment

RAFAEL NADAL

The Barcelona Open draw had put Nadal on a collision course with Spanish compatriot Carlos Alcaraz in the semi-finals but the 20-year-old was forced to withdraw Sunday because of fitness concerns.

"Let's hope he recovers well and quickly, it's bad for the tournament because he's the top seed," said Nadal.

"I'm not in a position to be thinking about the semi-finals."

Thunder grab top seed in West, LeBron's Lakers one win from NBA playoffs

AFP | Los Angeles

The unexpected Oklahoma City Thunder clinched the Western Conference top seed ahead of the defending champion Denver Nuggets as the NBA regular season wrapped up on Sunday.

The youthful Thunder rolled past the playoff-bound Dallas Mavericks -- who rested Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving among others -- 135-86 to emerge from the trio of teams who went into the final day of action tied atop the West.

It marked the first time that three teams entered their final games with identical records, all with a shot at the number one



Jalen Brunson of the New York Knicks directs his teammates

seed in a conference.

Thanks to the Thunder's edge in their head-to-head record,

the Nuggets' 126-111 victory over the Grizzlies in Memphis wasn't enough and the Minnesota Timberwolves, who also had a chance, fell 125-106 to the Phoenix Suns.

The Suns snatched the sixth and final automatic playoff berth and will face the No. 3 Timberwolves again in the first round.

In New Orleans, superstar LeBron James scored 28 points with 11 rebounds and 17 assists in his 112th career triple-double to propel the Los Angeles Lakers to a 124-108 victory over the Pelicans and eighth place in the West.

The defeat dropped the Pelicans out of sixth place and

they'll host the Lakers in the play-in tournament on Tuesday, with the winner advancing to the playoffs as the seventh seed.

James added five steals and Anthony Davis had 30 points and 11 rebounds against his former team. Davis gave Lakers fans a scare when he hobbled out in pain late in the fourth quarter, but coach Darvin Ham said he believed it was muscle spasms and not an injury that might sideline Davis in the post-season.

James' triple-double was his fifth this season and his playmaking helped spearhead a dominant performance in the paint, where Los Angeles outscored New Orleans 68-42.

Expect another PSG thriller: Barca coach Xavi

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said yesterday his team's Champions League quarter-final second leg clash against Paris Saint-Germain would be similar to the first leg thriller.

The five-time champions edged Luis Enrique's PSG side 3-2 in a Paris blockbuster last week and are aiming to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2019.

Xavi said the second leg at Barcelona's temporary Olympic Stadium home on the city's



Xavi Hernandez

Montjuic hill would produce more of the same spectacle.

"We're not a team that will sit on our lead, we want to take the ball off PSG and win the game," Xavi told a news conference.

Macron says Olympic opening ceremony could move from river to stadium if security threat

AFP | Paris

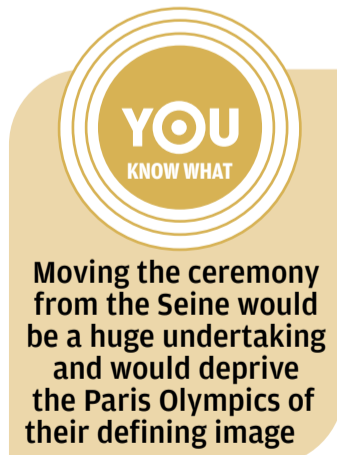
French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday for the first time that the Paris Olympics' opening ceremony could move from the river Seine to the national stadium in the event of a security threat.

Macron said instead of teams sailing down the Seine on barges, the ceremony could be "limited to the Trocadero" building across the river from the Eiffel Tower or "even moved to the Stade de France".

The Paris organisers have devised a ceremony that is unprecedented in Olympic history as it breaks from the tradition of the Games opening in the main stadium.

The plans would see as many as 10,000 athletes sailing along a six-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of the Seine in around 160 barges, before gathering at the Trocadero for a ceremony.

But with war raging in Ukraine and in Gaza, the ceremony also leaves teams potentially vulnerable to attack -- French authorities have, for example, mentioned the possibility of an



YOU KNOW WHAT
Moving the ceremony from the Seine would be a huge undertaking and would deprive the Paris Olympics of their defining image



An artist's impression of Paris Olympics' unprecedented opening ceremony

attack launched by drones.

So far, organisers have denied the ceremony on July 26 could be moved to a different venue if authorities believe there is a possibility it will be targeted.

"This opening ceremony... is a world first. We can do it and we are going to do it," Macron said in an interview with BFMTV and RMC.

"We have put in place a security cordon which is going to be very big, where we are going to check all the people coming in and going out," Macron said.

But, he added, "there are Plan

Bs and Plan Cs, we are preparing them in parallel... We will analyse this in real time".

The backup plans include moving the ceremony to the Stade de France to the north of Paris, the main stadium for the Olympics where the rugby sevens and athletics will be held.

Moving the ceremony from the Seine would be a huge undertaking and would deprive the Paris Olympics of their defining image.

If the ceremony is moved to the Stade de France, it would

be purely ceremonial without an artistic show, according to sources with knowledge of the arrangements.

More than 300,000 spectators are expected to be present for the ceremony, with another 200,000 watching from buildings along the Seine.

So far, all countries have said they plan to take part in the open-air river parade, including the most risk-averse such as the United States and Israel.

The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) said yesterday it was not surprised

”
We have put in place a security cordon which is going to be very big, where we are going to check all the people coming in and going out. There are Plan Bs and Plan Cs, we are preparing them in parallel... We will analyse this in real time

EMMANUEL MACRON

that Macron had spoken of contingency plans for the ceremony.

"I think any leader has a plan A, B and C, at least in the back of their mind," USOPC chief executive Sarah Hirshland told AFP at a US team media event in New York.

"But there's no leader who relies on a single plan at any time. No, I wasn't surprised."

- Olympic truce -
Macron also said he would do "everything possible" to have an Olympic truce during the Games.

The truce is an historic tradition that peace reigns during the Olympics.

"We want to work towards an Olympic truce and I think it is an occasion for me to engage with a lot of our partners," he said.

He said he would ask the Chinese president to help him in that aim when he visits Paris in early May.

"I have asked Xi Jinping to help me," Macron said.

The Paralympics take place after the Olympics, beginning on August 28.

Macron said he had a target of France finishing in the top five in the medals table for the Olympics and among the top eight nations for the Paralympics.

The president admitted the Paris metro system was not accessible to wheelchair users, which could pose difficulties for spectators at the Paralympics.

Macron admitted that on many of the older metro lines there was "not enough" accessibility.

He said to compensate, 1,000 taxis with wheelchair access would be made available for the duration of the Paralympics.

Records galore as Hyderabad beat Bengaluru after IPL best 287

Travis Head's 102 off 41 balls and Klaasen's 67 propels Sunrisers Hyderabad to victory

● Bengaluru ends with 262-7, falling short

AFP | Bengaluru

Sunrisers Hyderabad amassed 287-3 for the highest-ever Indian Premier League total and beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 25 runs on a Monday full of records and featuring a century by Travis Head.

Hyderabad, who were invited to bat first by hosts Bengaluru, went past the previous mark of 277 they made last month after a 41-ball 102 by Head and Heinrich Klaasen's explosive 67.

The new high was the second best in a T20 match after Nepal bludgeoned 314-3 against Mongolia in last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou.

The match produced the highest aggregate for a T20 game with a tally of 549 runs.

Virat Kohli (42) and skipper Faf du Plessis (62) gave RCB a blazing start before Dinesh



Travis Head of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot

Karthik smashed 83 off 35 balls as Bengaluru ended on 262-7.

Skipper Pat Cummins and spinner Mayank Markande broke the back of the Bengaluru chase with five wickets between them.

"Against Mumbai (Indians) a few weeks ago I thought it won't happen again, but it has

happened again," Cummins said after his team's third straight victory and fourth of the season. Batters ruled at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium as Hyderabad smashed the most sixes in an IPL innings, with 22 hits flying over the fence.

Head reached his ton in 39 balls for the fourth-fastest hun-

Scorecard

Sunrisers Hyderabad 287 for 3 (Head 102, Klaasen 67, Ferguson 2-52) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 262 for 7 (Karthik 83, du Plessis 62, Cummins 3-43) by 25 runs

dred in the competition as he set the tone for the assault and named man of the match.

He put on a 108-run opening stand with Abhishek Sharma, who hit 34.

Head, who was Australia's match winner in the final of the ODI World Cup in India last year, struck nine fours and eight sixes.

- Klaasen blitz - After his departure Klaasen took charge with his 31-ball blitz. The South African was nearly as punishing as Head as he smashed the ball to all parts of the ground before being dismissed by Lockie Ferguson.

Fellow South African Aiden Markram (32) and Indian hitter Abdul Samad (37) put together 59 off 19 balls for the final storm.



Sunrisers Hyderabad set a new IPL record with their 287-3 score, surpassing their previous high of 277 last month

Samad smashed England left-arm fast bowler Reece Topley for three fours and two sixes in a 25-run 19th over before he and Markram finished off with 21 runs from the final over.

Hyderabad posted 277-3 against Mumbai Indians at their home ground on March 27 to go past the 263-5 by Bengaluru in 2013.

Earlier this month, Kolkata Knight Riders posted 272-7 in a crushing 106-run victory over Delhi Capitals.



Against Mumbai (Indians) a few weeks ago I thought it won't happen again, but it has happened again,

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD SKIPPER PAT CUMMINS

In-form Kohli attempted to set up the chase with a powerful start as he struck six fours and two sixes in his 20-ball knock and Du Plessis kept up the charge till his departure.

The steep run chase made wickets tumble but Karthik once again came up with a late assault to reduce the losing margin for bottom-placed Bengaluru, who slumped to their fifth straight loss.

"One thing really important is to freshen your mind, it's such a mental game," said Du Plessis.

"Sometimes it feels like your mind is going to explode. A little bit of (an) uphill task for us at the moment."

Alcaraz hopeful but uncertain over Madrid Open recovery

AFP | London

Carlos Alcaraz hopes to defend his Madrid Open title but the Spanish world number three said yesterday he is uncertain whether he will be fully fit to do so.

Alcaraz pulled out of the Barcelona Open on Sunday because of an injury to his right forearm and explained his current fitness situation.

The Madrid Open starts on April 22 and Alcaraz said his goal is to play there after withdrawing from the Monte Carlo Masters earlier in April, and then from Barcelona, with the French Open approaching on the horizon.

"My intention is (to play at) the Madrid Open, but I am not



Carlos Alcaraz reacts during a match (file photo)

sure about anything," Alcaraz told reporters.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself, I don't want to say that I will be 100 percent at the

Madrid Open, but that is my intention.

"We will try and do everything that is in our power."

Alcaraz has won two Grand

"I don't want to get ahead of myself, I don't want to say that I will be 100 percent at the Madrid Open, but that is my intention. We will try and do everything that is in our power"

CARLOS ALCARAZ

Slams and is building towards Roland Garros which starts on May 26, having reached the semi-finals last year in Paris.

The 20-year-old said he would have liked to play in Barcelona after winning the tournament in each of the last two years.

Everton's appeal against Premier League points deduction to be fast-tracked

AFP | London

The Premier League said a speeded-up, "expedited" process will be put in place after Everton appealed against a two-point penalty imposed on the club for breaching financial regulations.

Everton admitted breaching profitability and sustainability rules (PSR) for permitted losses by £16.6 million (\$20.7 million) for the assessment period ending with the 2022/23 season.

The two-point punishment followed a previous six-point penalty imposed for the three-year period to 2021/22, reduced from 10 on appeal.

PSR rules permit clubs to lose £105 million over a rolling three-year period.

Everton, who have been present in the English top-flight since the 1954/55 season, are 16th in the Premier League, just two points above the rele-



Everton fans outside the stadium

gation zone with seven games to play, after losing eight points in total.

Nottingham Forest, just above the drop zone, last month lodged an appeal against a four-point deduction.

There have been fears any appeals may not be resolved until after the final day of the Premier League season on May 19.

"An appeal board has been appointed to hear the case after the club lodged the appeal to the chair of the judicial panel today (Monday)," the Premier League said in a statement.

BRAVE CF 81 set for 20th April in Slovenia

TDI | Manama

BRAVE Nation, prepare yourself for another CRAZY showdown at BRAVE CF 81 happening at Ljubljana, Slovenia in association WFC. The most global MMA promotion is back in Slovenia for the third time with a bang and this time fans can expect the most complete fight card of all time!

The main event will see a Light Heavyweight clash between European superstar Erko Jun and one of the biggest MMA names from the MENA region, Said Maalem.

Erko Jun comes into the fight on the back of his win in the main event of BRAVE CF 70 where he stopped Marko Drmonjic in the first round and is riding an overall 7-2 pro re-



cord, and is ready to glide into the vacant title conversation with another win in a main event in Slovenia.

Algeria's Said Maalem, on the other hand, has been a mainstay in the Light Heavyweight division of BRAVE CF and even held the world title for a short

period of time before the result of his title winning fight against Mohammad Fakhreddine was overturned to a No Contest.

In the co-main event, hometown hero, Slovenia's own David Forster and German's Christian Mach will fight it out in a Super Lightweight battle on the card.

David Forster has an opportunity to bounce back from his loss against Mohsen Mohammadseifi which happened at BRAVE CF 79 and won the fan vote for 2023 Fight of The Year.

Christian Mach will be fighting for the second time in the promotion after his debut in BRAVE CF 68 where he faced Austria's Gökhan Aksu however the result was not in his favour.

BRAVE CF 81 is going to be the stage for one fighter's incredible comeback; and we can only wait and watch to find out who.

BRAVE CF 81 will mark the start of an exciting year of action for the organization as nine events have been announced so far for 2024 with BRAVE CF also returning to Slovenia on 19 October.

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Riffa go top with win

Mohammed Anz, Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos on target against Al Hala in week 16 match

● **Muharraq fire in three goals past Al Shabab**

● **East Riffa held by Hidd with late equaliser**

TD | Manama

Riffa climbed back atop the table last night in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Riffa returned to the number one spot following a 2-0 victory over Al Hala in their week 16 clash, played at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Mohammed Anz and substitute Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos were on target for the victors in the second half of the match. Anz's header and Dos Santos's late effort gave Riffa the full three points, helping them leapfrog defending champions Al Khaldiya to the top of the standings, going one point ahead of their chief title rivals.

Also victorious last night were contenders Muharraq, who claimed a resounding 3-0 win over Al Shabab, while East Riffa were held to a 1-1 stalemate by Hidd.



Riffa's Komail Al Aswad challenges for the ball with Al Hala's Saeed Mubarak during their match last night

In Riffa's win, Anz was on target in the 57th minute off a chipped pass supplied by teammate Ali Hassan Saeed. Anz met

the short cross from the right of the box in the face of goal, and he made no mistake with his header.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Riffa	16	9	4	3	9	31
Al Khaldiya	15	8	6	1	16	30
Muharraq	16	7	7	2	8	28
Manama	15	6	4	5	4	22
Al Ahli	15	6	4	5	-2	22
Al Najma	15	5	4	6	2	19
Al Hala	16	6	1	9	-10	19
Al Shabab	16	4	5	7	-6	17
Sitra	15	4	5	6	-5	17
Hidd	16	4	4	8	-6	16
East Riffa	16	4	4	8	-6	16
Busaiteen	15	3	6	6	-4	15

Later, Dos Santos supplied Riffa's second in the seventh minute of second-half stoppage time following a brilliant through pass from Abdulaziz Al Mansouri. He was released for a one-on-one with Hala goalkeeper Godwill Chia Ndong, whom he chipped the ball over into goal.

With the result, Riffa improved to 31 points following their ninth win in 16 outings. They are now ahead of Khaldiya, who have a game in hand. Riffa handed Hala their ninth loss and they stayed on 19 markers.

Penalty

In Muharraq's victory, they opened their account on the stroke of half-time with a penal-



Week 16 action in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League continues tonight with three more matches on the cards, all kicking off at 7pm. Defending champions Al Khaldiya will be looking to return to the top of the standings when they face off with Manama, while Al Ahli go up against bottom-of-the-table Busaiteen and Al Najma play Sitra

ty by Hussain Abdulkarim, who was taken down in the box in the play leading up to the spot kick.

Muharraq then went 2-0 ahead four minutes after the restart through Ahmed Al Sherooqi. The young Bahrain international scored after tapping in from close range from the six-

yard box.

Muharraq were then rolling and they fired in their third just three minutes later. Abdulwahab Al Malood was on target, tapping in unmarked from the face of goal Sufyan Al Mahrouq.

Muharraq went to 28 points on the standings with their seventh victory, while Shabab suffered their seventh defeat and remained on 17 points.

In last night's third affair, Hidd struck late to forge the 1-1 draw after East Riffa led for most of the match.

East Riffa went in front after only minute minutes with brilliant turning shot from Sami Al Hussaini. But in the 90th minute, Hidd's Abdulla Al Ajami hit a rocket from nearly 30 yards out and into the top-right corner of the net to salvage a share of the points.

It was a game between the league's two bottom sides, and each improved to 16 points but remained amongst the last three.

League action continues tonight with three more matches on the cards, all kicking off at 7pm.

Khaldiya will be looking to return to the top of the standings when they face off with Manama, while Al Ahli go up against bottom-of-the-table Busaiteen and Al Najma play Sitra.

Al Ahli force semis decider

● **Al Ahli beat Al Najma in four sets to send best-of-three series to winner-take-all third game**

TD | Manama

Al Ahli forced a winner-take-all game three last night in their semi-final series against Al Najma in the His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's Cup 2024 volleyball tournament.

After losing game one of their best-of-three clash, Ahli roared

back in the second game yesterday to win 3-1 (25-17, 25-22, 16-25, 25-23) and send the head-to-head to a decisive rubber match.

Ahli were the early aggressors and after a brief setback in the third set, recovered in the fourth to close out the contest.

A Mohammed Habib spike helped them take the early match lead, and then a Nasser Anan secured their two-set advantage. Najma stayed in contention with their backs against the wall and a Jacob Link ace reduced their deficit.

But Ahli replied right away and a service winner from Ali

Ebrahim secured the match.

Najma had previously drawn first blood in this semis series with a hard-earned win in five sets in game one.

Following game three, the winners of this semi-final move on to battle for the title against the victor from the other match-up between holders Dar Kulaib and Muharraq. Muharraq currently hold the 1-0 lead after beating Dar Kulaib in four sets in game one. Game two is scheduled for tonight, starting at 7pm.

Dar Kulaib won last year's competition after defeating Ahli in four sets in a rocking final.



Al Ahli's Nasser Anan attacks the net against Al Najma last night

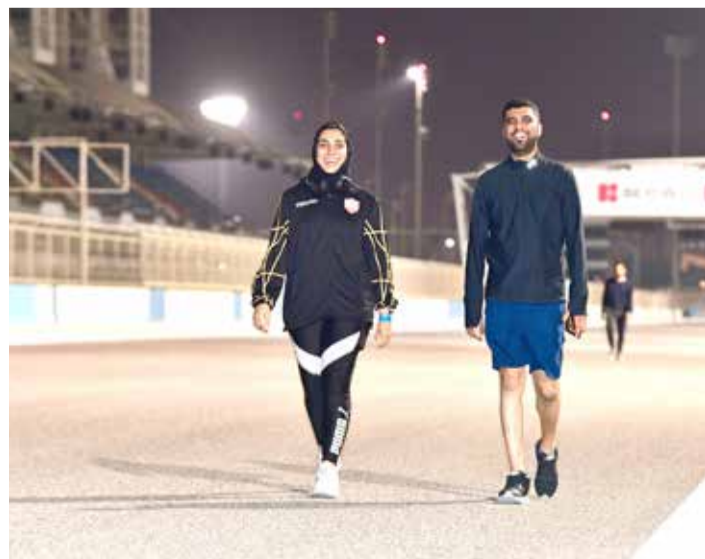
Haller to miss Atletico clash, Sancho to return

AFP | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund striker Sebastien Haller will miss today's home Champions League quarter final clash with Atletico Madrid, while winger Jadon Sancho is set to return, Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said yesterday.

Dortmund trail 2-1 after the first leg in Madrid, with Haller scoring a goal late to bring the visitors back into the tie.

Haller was subbed off after just 10 minutes in Dortmund's 2-1 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, the Ivory Coast striker's first league start since September.



Participants during a previous event

BIC offers double the workout with Batelco Fitness on Track twice this week

TD | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", will be welcoming the general public twice this week for its widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track activity.

This unique experience offers a fun workout either on foot or on a bicycle within the safe and secure setting of the world-class Sakhir circuit.

BIC will first be staging Batelco Fitness on Track this week tonight and then again on Friday in the early morning.

On both occasions, the activity can be enjoyed either with members of the family or a group of friends, or even as an individual participant.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their

bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

Tuesday's event will be held from 6pm to 10pm under BIC's bright, state-of-the-art floodlights, making for a visual spectacle while getting a unique workout at a Formula 1 venue.

On Friday, meanwhile, the activity will take place from 6am to 10am, giving participants

a bright and early start to the weekend.

The cost to take part on each day is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

With Batelco Fitness on Track being one of BIC's most popular activities, those interested in taking part are advised to book at the earliest.